

Message Text

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ACTION EB-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 AF-04 NEA-07 EUR-08 L-01
NSCE-00 NSC-05 INR-05 CIAE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SP-02
PRS-01 USIA-01 OES-02 ACDA-10 PM-03 DODE-00 /068 W
-----072030Z 067988 /63

R 070715Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3331

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 4577

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:ENRG, EFIN

SUBJ: APPARENT DISCOVERY OF NATURAL GAS IN
IVORY COAST

REF: A. NOUAKCHOTT 0982, B. ABIDJAN 4526

1. EMBASSY HAS JUST LEARNED FROM SOURCE WITHIN
MANAGEMENT OF SOCIETE NATIONALE D'OPERATIONS PETROLIERS
DA LA COTE D'IVOIRE(PETROCI) THAT NATURAL GAS HAS
APPARENTLY BEEN DISCOVERED IN IVORY COAST. SOURCE
LEARNED FROM VERY EXCITED CHIEF GEOLOGIST (BRITISH)
AT PETROCI THAT INITIAL ESTIMATE OF FIND IS 20,000 CUBIC
METERS PER DAY. PETROCI HAS ALREADY LAUNCHED A
STUDY OF POSSIBLE UTILIZATION OF THE FIND. RESULTS
OF THE STUDY ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE.

2. SOURCE COULD NOT RECALL WHICH CONCESSION
PRODUCED THE FIND BUT HAS PROMISED TO SEEK
THE INFORMATION FOR US. SOURCE ALSO STATED THAT
NO EQUIVALENT IN-HOUSE EXCITEMENT HAS SURFACED
CONCERNING A DISCOVERY OF CRUDE OIL AND HE
BELIEVES THE FIND THUS FAR IS LIMITED TO NATURAL
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GAS.

3. COMMENT: SOURCE IS WELL KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY
AND IS DEFINITELY IN A POSITION TO BE PRIVY TO
PETROCI INFORMATION. EMBASSY HAS NO REASON TO
BELIEVE THAT EITHER HE OR THE BRITISH CHIEF
GEOLOGIST MIGHT BE INVOLVED IN ANY DELIBERATE

MISINFORMATION ALONG THE LINES SUGGESTED IN
REFERENCE B. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO UTILIZE
SOURCE'S WILLINGNESS TO HELP US MONITOR THE
SITUATION AND AT THE SAME TIME WILL BE ALERT FOR
OTHER CONFIRMATION OF HIS INFORMATION.
STEARNS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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